Vancouver metro

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016

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Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016 High 14°C/Low 11°C Rain

SUPERNATURAL ~~BRITISH~~ COLUMBIA

Prominent indigenous artist says B.C. needs a new name

metroNEWS

COURTESY DESTINATION B.C.

WESTWOOD

FEDERAL FAILURE

DAY 2 OF OUR SPECIAL FOCUS ON CAMPUS SEX ASSAULT

metroNEWS

'WE GAVE HIM THE FINGER'

Vancouver renters fight for the right to Airbnb

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B.C. STILL NEEDS TO MEET GHG TARGET DESPITE TRUDEAU CARBON PRICING PLAN, EXPERT SAYS

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Your essential daily news

Outdated laws blamed for rise in exotic pet ownership. **Canada**

Chinese-Canadians want apology for city hall event

CONTROVERSY

Politicians defend wearing red scarves at flag-raising

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Members of the region's Chinese-Canadian community are demanding an apology from Vancouver Coun. Kerry Jang for hoisting the People's Republic of China flag himself alongside Liberal MP Joe Peschisolido, both wearing red scarves, at an event on Friday.

"The decision to fly the flag of any nation neither implies nor expresses support for the politics of those nations," an email from the city stated on Monday, citing recent flags raised for democracies such as Mexico, Slovenia, Ukraine and the Philippines.

But one local resident who sees a big difference between those democracies and the Chinese regime is Li Yi-Ping, who immediately thought back to June 1989 in Beijing.

Representatives of Vancouver, Burnaby and the federal government took part in a flag-raising ceremony at Vancouver City Hall on Saturday. TWITTER

"I can still remember Tiananman Square," Li told Metro. "I witnessed the whole event from the beginning to the end.

"I saw people shot down by bullets that night. Thousands lost their lives. So many people peacefully demonstrated, just asking for some freedoms. The government used tanks and machine guns to put our movement down."

Now, Li and others who left the People's Republic of China are worried about what they say is that regime's increasing influence over politics and affairs in Canada, where they found a home.

Jang could not be reached for comment Monday, but in an interview Sunday told Metro Friday's event simply followed federal protocol for hosting different states' events. Singling out China's event is "just racism pure and simple," he said when asked about some Chinese-Canadians' concerns. That comment sparked Li to demand an apology not just for the event, but for accusing critics of racism. He said his criticism is of the Chinese government — not people — and called Jang's remarks "insensitive."

> **I want to hear them apologize to the people who lost their lives in the 67-year history of the Communist regime.**
> Li Yi-Ping

"I want to hear them apologize to the people who lost their lives in the 67-year history of the Communist regime," Li said.

"I want them to promise they will learn more about what happened in China, and what's still happening right now in China — to hear them promise they will never go to this kind of ceremony.

"And if, in the interests of Canada, they have to do something to communicate with that regime, at least don't celebrate the regime."

IN BRIEF

Realtors warn of dramatic sales slump

Real estate agents say home sales continued to fall dramatically in the Vancouver area last month and even hit a 10-year low in some neighbourhoods.

Agents say the high-end detached home market is seeing the most substantial losses, while the condominium and townhome market remains active.

The Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, which covers a large swath of Metro Vancouver but excludes several large suburbs including Surrey, is set to release its home sales data for the month of September tomorrow.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mexican officials say suspect arrested in death of Canadian artist

A prosecutor says robbery appears to be the motive behind the murder of Canadian artist Barbara McClatchie Andrews found dead in Mexico last week.

Yucatan state Attorney General Ariel Aldecua alleges the woman was killed by the man who she hired to drive her from Cancun back to where she lived in Merida, the state's capital.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RICK MERCER REPORT
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Renters fight for Airbnb rights

HOUSING

Landlord objected to couple using marketplace

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

A couple who used Airbnb to cover nearly half of the $4,200 monthly rent on a five-bedroom Kitsilano house say new rules proposed by the City of Vancouver would have prevented them from being able to afford the family-sized home.

"Do we want a hard-and-fast rule? Is that what we want, for there to be no exceptions?" said Gordon Glaze, who rents a house on 11th Avenue at Waterloo Street. "Well, that's the way this is going."

Under a new policy that will come before council on Wednesday, city staff are proposing to allow short-term rentals for under 30 days — currently prohibited under city bylaws — but require homeowners and renters to apply for a permit, which they must display on their online listing.

Short-term rental permits will only be allowed if the home is the homeowner or renter's primary residence (meaning otherwise unoccupied basement suites and laneway houses wouldn't qualify) and renters have permission from their landlords.

Glaze, a 46-year-old inventor, and Yael Slaw, a 43-year-old designer, are moving out of the house after butting heads with their current landlord about Airbnb.

The couple and their three children moved into the house two and a half years ago, accepting the pricy rent because their landlady at the time allowed them to take responsibility for what Glaze describes as an "unregistered" one-bedroom basement suite.

Yael Slaw and Gordon Glaze in their former Kitsilano neighbourhood on Monday. The pair used Airbnb to help cover the rent of their West Side home. JEN ST. DENIS/METRO

The couple were able to make around $2,000 a month, averaged over the course of a year, listing the suite on Airbnb for around $140 a night. Metro found several one-bedroom basement suites in Kitsilano listed for around $1,300 a month on Craigslist.

But after the house was sold for $2.6 million, their new landlord wanted them to stop using Airbnb, saying his insurance didn't cover short-term stays.

"He came to us saying... stop using short-term stays, and we gave him the finger," Glaze said, adding that after fighting several eviction attempts, he and Slaw decided to buy a condo in False Creek.

Glaze believes Airbnb was good for his neighbourhood, allowing tourists, new immigrants and older people visiting new grandchildren a place to stay right within Kitsilano, which has few hotels.

> **There's additional costs and premiums to acquire it and not all insurers even offer it.** David Hutniak

But with the city's rental vacancy at just 0.6 per cent and Airbnb activity raising the ire of neighbours, the City of Vancouver has been under public pressure to regulate the service. City staff estimate the proposed policy could return 1,000 units to permanent rental stock.

David Hutniak, CEO of LandlordBC, said his organization encourages landlords to use a tenancy agreement that specifically states that any short-term rentals without the consent of the landlord will constitute breach of contract and be grounds for eviction.

Insurance can also be an issue, Hutniak said.

"It wouldn't surprise me at all that this particular property owner, their current policy likely doesn't cover short-term rentals," he said. "Then there's additional costs and premiums to acquire it ... and not all insurers even offer it."

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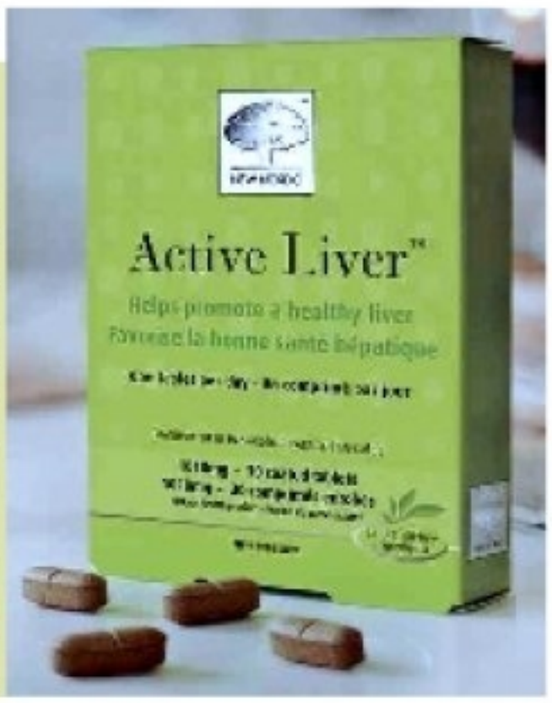

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Officials are hopeful Vancouver's housing availability may improve with a series of housing actions announced by the federal finance minister Monday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Feds tighten rules on house flipping

HOUSING

B.C., local officials praise developments

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

New measures preventing house flippers from taking advantage of Canadian tax exemptions received wide praise in British Columbia on Monday.

Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau announced a series of housing actions in Toronto: forcing people to report the sale of their primary residence to the Canada Revenue Agency, restricting capital gains tax exemptions to Canadian residents only and limiting families to a single property designated as their primary residence for any given year.

"If somebody is continually buying and flipping houses in our real estate market they may no longer be able to claim the capital gain because it's not a principal residence anymore, it's now a business they are running," said B.C. New Democratic Party housing critic David Eby. "So I feel this is very excellent news for people who are concerned about what is happening with our real estate market."

Eby said the federal announcement signals decision makers within Vancouver's unaffordable housing market are trying to shift it away from an investors' paradise open to abuse and toward "providing homes for people who live and work and pay taxes in Metro Vancouver."

Rich Coleman, B.C.'s minister responsible for housing, also supported Morneau's measures.

"The changes announced by the federal government include measures we have asked for, and they are welcome steps that may help provide further fairness and stability in the market for home-buyers," Coleman said in a statement.

The news was welcomed at a municipal level, as well.

"Ensuring tax breaks and capital gains benefits are limited to residents declaring principal residence should slow the abuse of unregulated, speculative money churning up the Vancouver real estate market," said Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson.

In addition to closing tax loopholes, Robertson noted the requirement to report the sale of primary residences to the CRA will arm the city with more in-depth information that will help it enforce and audit its empty homes tax when it comes into effect next year.

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Province name is 'racist, needs to go,' claims artist

HERITAGE

Aboriginal painter says it's time to #RenameBC

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

It's not the Queen Charlotte Islands anymore, but Haida Gwaii; the Salish Sea and Kwakwaka'wakw Sea are less-well known attempts to rename B.C. places to acknowledge the presence of first peoples.

A prominent indigenous artist is now arguing that the name of our province needs a wholesale rebranding, and is pushing for the issue to be put to a provincial referendum.

"It's a colonial, ugly, creepy, Canadiana, racist (name)," said Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun. A 30-year retrospective of Yuxweluptun's work is currently on display at the Museum of Anthropology, which has launched a campaign called #RenameBC that will wrap up this weekend as the exhibition closes.

Some of the suggestions submitted so far through Twitter have included Chuckkopakosah (Twitter user @starbuckbeak writes: "In Chinook Wawa, trade language of old Columbia…it means Sea to Sky"), Hyas Illahee (Chinook for "Great Land," writes Twitter user @LeftCoastRacing) or Klahowya (Chinook for "welcome" or "hello"). Tree Sea and Landfall are two other suggestions.

Yuxweluptun especially takes issue with the "British" part of British Columbia, although he'd really like to see the entire thing go.

"Anything but British Columbia is my preference. We have Salish Seas, I think even calling it the Coastal province — anything that brings it out of British control," Yuxweluptun said.

"I would rather have a republic. I don't want the British monarchy coming here and visiting."

For Yuxweluptun, whose art depicts environmental catastrophes and the clash between indigenous people and European colonizers, a new name for B.C. would be the first step in addressing current and historic injustices.

"I want them to be changed so we can start to realistically negotiate in trust, in stewardship of this land," he said, pointing out that 96 per cent of B.C. First Nations still do not have treaties.

"If you want to cut down a tree, pay the Indian. If you want a glass of water, pay the Indian."

WEIGH IN

What would you call B.C.?
Send your name suggestion to letters@vancouvermetro.ca, along with an explanation of why you think it would make a good name.

The campaign to rename "British Columbia" is pushing for the issue to be put to a provincial referendum. COURTESY DESTINATION B.C.

Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun KEN MAYER/FOR METRO

MISSING WOMEN

Vigil joins hundreds in Canada

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver advocates for missing and murdered women are holding a solemn event in the Downtown Eastside, a neighbourhood where many have gone missing.

The candlelight vigil on Tuesday evening hopes to honour families of the missing, and to co-ordinate efforts across the country for justice and an end to a crisis the RCMP admits has claimed more than 1,200 indigenous women.

"October 4 is a day where we honour the lives of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls," the event's Facebook page stated. "The violence experienced by aboriginal women and girls in Canada is a national tragedy."

The event will include a moment of silence, as well as performances by the dance troupe Butterflies in Spirit, hip-hop duo Entertribal and speeches from Angela Marie MacDougall of Battered Women's Support Services.

The national events have taken place for years, organized under the banner of Sisters in Spirit, a campaign spearheaded by the Native Women's Association of Canada.

This year, many of the participating groups — which blossomed to more than 200 cross-country events in recent years — are preparing for their long-sought national public inquiry into the missing indigenous women crisis. But many have raised concerns about whether police can be held accountable for wrongdoing.

Vancouver's candlelight vigil is planned for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Victory Square, located at 200 West Hastings St.

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“
This meeting is not worth the CO2 emissions it took for environment ministers to get there.
Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced he will require provinces to implement a carbon price of $10 per tonne starting in 2018, which will increase by $10 per tonne annually until it reaches $50 per tonne in 2022. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. still needs to meet targets: Expert

ENVIRONMENT

Province needs to stay on track amid new carbon pricing

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

British Columbia isn't off the hook now that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced he will impose carbon pricing on other provinces, environmentalists say.

Speaking in the House of Commons Monday, Trudeau announced he will require provinces to implement a carbon price of $10 per tonne starting in 2018, which will increase by $10 per tonne annually until it reaches $50 per tonne in 2022.

British Columbia is currently the only province with a carbon tax, frozen at $30 per tonne, and has refused to bump it up further until the rest of the country catches up.

Josha MacNab, B.C. director of the Pembina Institute, applauded Trudeau's announcement but cautioned B.C. still has a lot of work to do to meet its own 2050 emission reduction target of 80 per cent.

As it stands, the B.C. climate plan announced in August only gets the province halfway to its goal, though Environment Minister Mary Polak has said it will be added over time.

"Now that we have the federal commitment, it remains to be seen how B.C. responds," MacNab told Metro. "Regardless what action B.C. does or doesn't take on the carbon tax, that doesn't absolve them of the responsibility or ensure that we do have a plan that gets B.C. on track to meeting our 2050 target."

The federal government says it will allow provinces to decide whether they prefers a carbon tax, like B.C.'s, or a cap and trade system like Ontario and Quebec are looking at.

Polak said in a statement provided to Metro that B.C. has "long supported our $30/tonne carbon price becoming the national benchmark" and that "we need other jurisdictions to catch up to our carbon price before we raise our carbon tax."

Not everyone was happy with Trudeau's abrupt announcement, made independently of provincial environment ministers meeting their federal counterpart in Montreal.

Three of the ministers, from Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, walked out of the negotiations in protest.

"This meeting is not worth the CO2 emissions it took for environment ministers to get there," wrote Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall on Facebook. "I cannot believe that while the country's environment ministers were meeting on a so-called collaborative climate change plan, the Prime Minister stood in the House of Commons and announced a carbon tax unilaterally."

Wall, long opposed to a carbon tax, called the sudden announcement a "betrayal".

A new poll, also released Monday, suggests the public doesn't seem to mind if carbon pricing is imposed on unwilling provinces.

The poll commissioned by Clean Energy Canada, a Simon Fraser University-based climate and energy think thank, found that 33 per cent of Canadian "support" and 26 per cent "somewhat support" a price on carbon, overall.

The majority of respondents (38 per cent support, 28 per cent somewhat support) want the federal government to take action on its own if the steps taken by provinces aren't enough to meet Canada's targets.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sexual Assault on Campus: A Metro Special Focus — Day 2: A federal vacuum

Lost without leadership

Campus sexual assault is a national problem, but no one's pursuing a national solution. With no central accountability or oversight, the provinces and schools are on their own.

Rosemary Westwood
Metro | Toronto

One of the defining elements of the fight against campus sexual assault in Canada is what it lacks: a national strategy.

To some degree, this is by constitutional design. We have no federal education minister, no federal responsibility for post-secondary education. Politically speaking, it's not a national matter.

In this vacuum, the provinces are left to negotiate a new era of sexual-assault legislation.

In Ontario and B.C., new bills passed in the last year require every post-secondary institution to have a standalone sexual-assault policy (by January and May, respectively). An opposition MLA in Manitoba has put forward a similar bill, as has the Conservative opposition in Nova Scotia. Meanwhile, Nova Scotia's ruling Liberals signed a memorandum of understanding with universities this summer tying the development of sexual-assault policies to increased funding.

In Alberta, the minister of education has directed all schools to have standalone sexual-assault policies (expected to be in place by the spring). And in other provinces — at the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan and Memorial University in Newfoundland — schools are shouldering the initiative themselves.

But while these efforts have been greeted with hope and some praise (most notably by politicians and university administrators), critics argue the legislation doesn't go far enough.

In each province, schools are given broad autonomy over what exactly the policies should look like — a significant vote of confidence in a sector roundly viewed as having failed on the issue for decades.

None of the new or proposed legislation establishes centralized responsibility for ensuring the policies operate as they should. That's striking, since institutional accountability has been at the heart of numerous complaints about university responses to sexual assault.

Dawn Moore, a Carleton professor and the lead investigator for a major research report on campus sexual assault released this summer, was among 20 colleagues who wrote to the university's president this spring, expressing concerns the school was "embarrassing" itself by not consulting from the beginning with academics whose research deals with sexual assault. Similar complaints were registered at other schools with experts in the field.

These patchwork efforts are not the only option.

Provincial education ministers do have a national body, the Council of Ministers of Education, that co-ordinates on "pan-Canadian education initiatives." In a meeting this summer, they talked about a range of issues including indigenous education and funding, but sexual assault appeared nowhere on the agenda.

Meanwhile, the minister for the status of women, Patty Hajdu, has been tasked with developing the Federal Strategy Against Gender-based Violence, which she told me will include campus violence. But Hajdu's staff took pains to reiterate that campus sexual assault is the jurisdiction of provinces, and Hajdu said her ministry's role could only be one of support.

"We're working very closely with the provinces, the territories, looking at how can we actually support the work that has been happening across the country and where are the gaps at a federal level that we can actually fill in," she said.

Hajdu said consultations with campus sexual-assault survivors brought up the example of the U.S., where there has been a far more aggressive national push to tackle the problem.

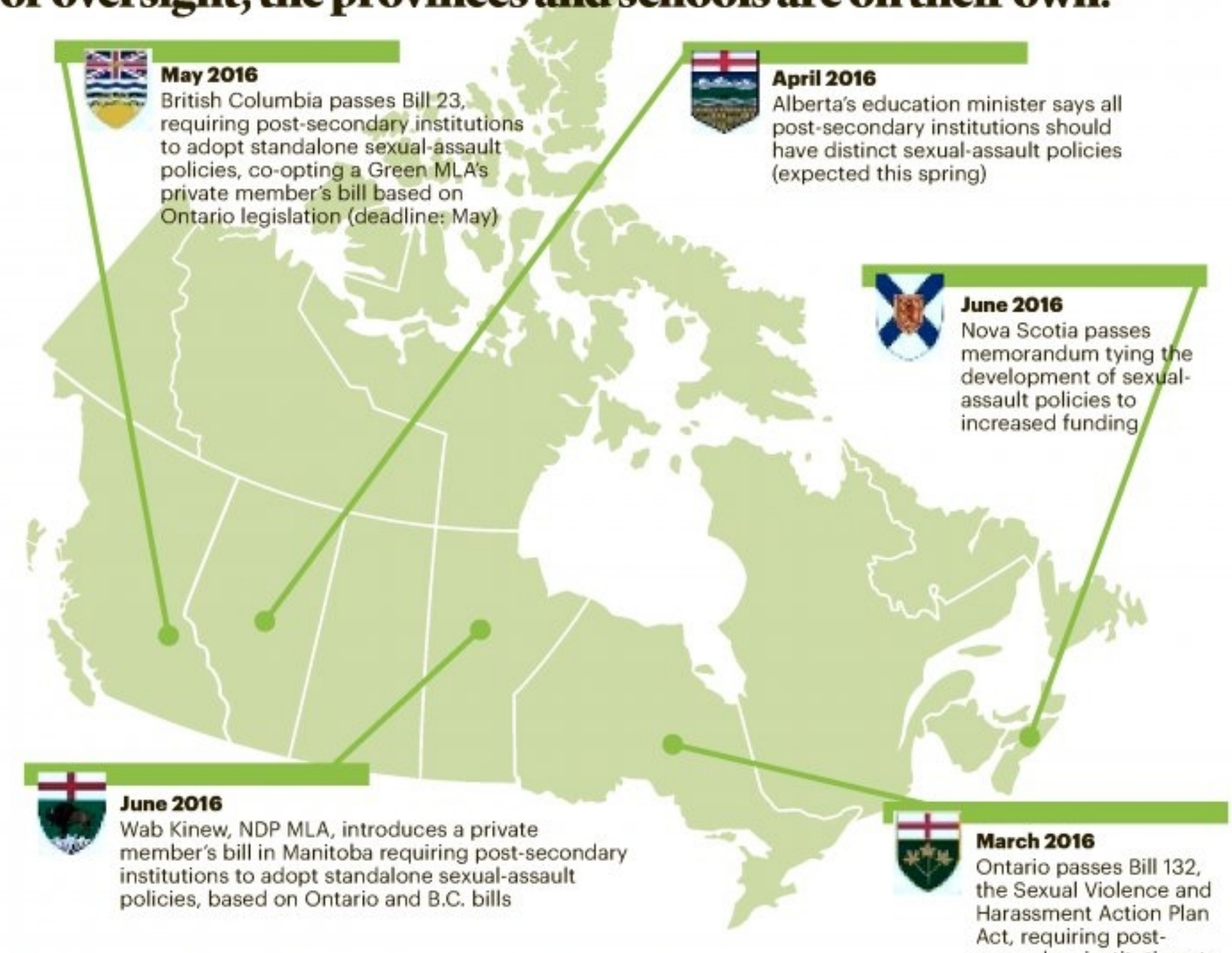
"There are a number of pieces of legislation and actions the president himself has taken and been very clear about. For example, making sure that campuses that he visits have strengthened policy and legislation around sexual violence and insisting that exists before he visits those campuses," Hajdu said.

President Barack Obama indeed makes a striking contrast to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the subject. While one has made an end to campus violence a pillar of his administration and tasked Vice-President Joe Biden with the file, Metro found no evidence that Trudeau has spoken publicly about campus sexual violence since winning office.

Wab Kinew, Manitoba NDP MLA and a proponent of a bill to require sexual-assault policies on campuses in that province, suggests that a public statement from Trudeau could be a useful start.

"Potentially there's room for federal intervention, but before that it would be great to see the prime minister weigh in and say consent culture is important," he said.

Any federal strategy — like Hajdu's — will take time, he noted, but a statement like that could happen "right away."


May 2016
British Columbia passes Bill 23, requiring post-secondary institutions to adopt standalone sexual-assault policies, co-opting a Green MLA's private member's bill based on Ontario legislation (deadline: May)
April 2016
Alberta's education minister says all post-secondary institutions should have distinct sexual-assault policies (expected this spring)
June 2016
Nova Scotia passes memorandum tying the development of sexual-assault policies to increased funding
June 2016
Wab Kinew, NDP MLA, introduces a private member's bill in Manitoba requiring post-secondary institutions to adopt standalone sexual-assault policies, based on Ontario and B.C. bills
March 2016
Ontario passes Bill 132, the Sexual Violence and Harassment Action Plan Act, requiring post-secondary institutions to adopt standalone sexual-assault policies (deadline: January)

The provinces' latest efforts have been a patchwork of legislation and directives in the absence of a co-ordinated national strategy

About the series

Mon. | The power of five
The most organized Canada-wide effort to combat campus sexual assault comes from an unlikely crew of five young women.

Tues. | A federal vacuum
The problem is national, but solutions have been regional and parochial.

Wed. | The U.S. & U.K.
U.S. law and White House directives make for more rigorous requirements. But the U.K. lags behind.

Thurs. | Dearth of data
We don't know how big the problem is because no one is incentivized to find out.

Fri. | The way ahead
We have a problem; we need a plan.

Join The Fight

Tell your story and pressure your MP using **#safercampusnow** and follow the series at **metronews.ca**.

DOING 'SOMETHING,' FIXING NOTHING

Glynnis Kirchmeier is one of three women who've filed human-rights complaints against Canadian universities over the past year.

As part of her complaint against the University of British Columbia, Kirchmeier is asking the school to hire an independent person tasked with evaluating and overseeing its sexual-assault responses.

"I wouldn't have voted for it," Kirchmeier said of B.C.'s campus sexual-assault bill, which she criticized as toothless and vague.

"Why waste your time on legislation that is not very good? That's not to say I don't understand legislation has compromises, but this was so far from anything worth doing. I'm worried that people will say: 'That's that. We did something.'"

Canada spies on prisoners overseas

PRIVACY

Documents reveal CSIS is using powers controversially

Canada's spy agency is using controversial powers under the C-51 anti-terrorism legislation to gather intelligence from Canadians held in foreign prisons, a newly released memo reveals.

Amnesty International Canada and the NDP are expressing concerns about the potential pitfalls of the previously unknown information-sharing arrangement between the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and Global Affairs Canada.

In the House of Commons, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale stopped short of defending the arrangement Monday, saying a federal national security review would ensure the government's approach is consistent with "what Canadians want."

The spy service and Global Affairs made the sharing deal this year through the Security of Canada Information Sharing Act — part of the omnibus security legislation known as C-51, says a secret May memo to Goodale from CSIS director Michel Coulombe.

The provisions, ushered in by the previous Conservative government, expanded the exchange of federally held information about activity that "undermines the security of Canada."

"Information collected by (Global Affairs Canada) through the provision of consular services can be directly relevant to investigations of threats to the security of Canada," says the heavily censored CSIS memo. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yasmin Nakhuda with her monkeys Diva and Caesar in Pontypool, Ont. Activists blame a patchwork of outdated and inconsistent laws for the rise in exotic pets. FRED THORNHILL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rise in exotic pets a concern

As the sun sets over the sprawling property in rural Ontario, the farmhouse party gets into full swing. The host walks around chatting up the guests, two small monkeys perched on her shoulder. One is dressed in a collared jumpsuit, the other in a polka-dot dress.

Up the hill, a pair of burlesque dancers perform as guests snap photographs of other animals — two miniature donkeys, a wallaroo named Wall-E, a few alpacas groomed like best-in-show poodles, two tiny marmosets, two ferrets and a skittish black-and-white fox.

This is Yasmin Nakhuda's Xanadu where she presides over her menagerie at her home in Kawartha Lakes, where she moved in 2014 after losing her "son" Darwin — a Japanese macaque that escaped from her car and wandered into an Ikea store.

Images of the tiny monkey wearing a beige shearling coat triggered a social media frenzy and a legal battle that Nakhuda eventually lost to an animal sanctuary that Darwin now calls home.

Owning exotics — wild animals taken from their natural habitat or bred in captivity and not native to the country — is a growing trend in Canada, according to animal welfare activists, who blame a patchwork of outdated and inconsistent laws and bylaws. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MONTREAL

Hijab keeps student out of exam

A Montreal junior college is trying to determine how to accommodate a student who was prevented from taking an exam because she wouldn't temporarily remove part of her hijab, a school spokeswoman said Monday.

The young woman was asked by her male biology teacher two weeks ago to pull back part of her headscarf so he could see wether she was wearing headphones, said Line Legare with College de Maisonneuve.

"She didn't want to show him her ears," Legare said, adding the student offered her teacher the possibility of touching her through the hijab to make sure she wasn't trying to cheat.

"That made the teacher uncomfortable."

He then told the student she couldn't take the exam that day.

Legare noted the teacher made it clear at the beginning of the school year he reserved the right to ensure students weren't wearing headphones before exams.

He said the teacher and the student are negotiating another date for her to write the exam. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Residents of the Cuban community of Cecilia, in Guantanamo Province, are evacuated as Hurricane Matthew wreaks havoc through the Caribbean. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Matthew wreaking havoc

WEATHER

Hurricane claims at least four lives

Heavy rains from the outer bands of Hurricane Matthew drenched Jamaica and Haiti on Monday, flooding streets and sending many people to emergency shelters as the Category 4 storm approached the two countries. Two deaths were reported in Haiti, bringing the total for the storm to at least four.

Matthew had sustained winds of 220 km/h as it moved north, up from 210 km/h earlier in the day. The centre was expected to pass just east of Jamaica and near or over the southwestern tip of Haiti early Tuesday before heading to eastern Cuba, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

"We are looking at a dangerous hurricane that is heading into the vicinity of western Haiti and eastern Cuba," said Richard Pasch, a senior hurricane specialist with the centre. "People who are impacted by things like flooding and mudslides hopefully would get out and relocate because that's where we have seen loss of life in the past."

Many were taking that advice. In Jamaica, more than 700 people packed shelters in the eastern parish of St. Thomas and the Salvation Army said there were about 200 people at its shelters in Kingston.

Still, many people chose to stick it out. Local Government Minister Desmond McKenzie said all but four residents of the Port Royal area near the Kingston airport refused to board buses and evacuate.

In Haiti, authorities went door to door in the south coast cities of Les Cayes and Jeremie to make sure people were aware of the storm. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Syrian rebels lose 15 in battles with Daesh

Fighting in northern Syria between Turkey-backed Syrian rebels and Daesh militants killed at least 15 rebels as the opposition pressed toward a town of symbolic importance for the extremists, an activist group and Turkish officials said Monday. The Syrian government continued to strike besieged, rebel-held parts of Aleppo, hitting the area's largest hospital, according to activists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFRICA

Unrest continues in Ethiopia

Violence flared again Monday in Ethiopia's restive Oromia region, where dozens of people were killed a day earlier in a stampede when police tried to disrupt an anti-government protest amid a massive religious festival.

The state broadcaster late Monday raised the death toll to 55 from the earlier official count of 52. Its report cited a hospital official in the town where the stampede occurred, and it said three people remained hospitalized with serious injuries.

Men help a protester on Sunday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

After the stampede, clashes between security forces and protesters erupted Sunday evening and continued Monday morning in the towns of Bishoftu and Ambo, an Ethiopian government official and witnesses said.

The annual Irrecha thanksgiving festival had drawn huge crowds, and the stampede occurred as people ran to escape police firing tear gas and rubber bullets and shooting live rounds into the air after anti-government protesters approached the stage where religious leaders were speaking. People were crushed to death. A witness said some of those killed were still being recovered from

IN BRIEF

Boy shot at school to have superhero funeral

The family of a six-year-old boy shot at a South Carolina elementary school says a superhero funeral is planned for Jacob Hall, a week after he was shot along with a classmate and a teacher. Family members say that pallbearers will dress as superheroes and people attending are encouraged to wear costumes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, October 4, 2016

EMMA TEITEL ON THE ULTIMATE CIVIC HOLIDAY

More than 20 per cent of Canadians who said they didn't vote in the 2011 election abstained because they were 'too busy.' That strikes me as a big number and a big problem.

When I was in high school, running for student council, it was pretty easy to "get out the vote" on election day.

All you had to do was plug in the school's popcorn machine beside the ballot boxes and wait for the smell of hot imitation butter to reel your constituency in to the polls. A word of advice to any politician trying to increase youth-voter turnout: the key to your success is not in lofty promises of progressive change. It's in free food. And equally important: easy access to that food.

Of course I am being facetious, but there is a kernel of truth (sorry) in the popcorn anecdote. People, no matter their political affiliation, are more likely to vote when voting is made easy.

This is why nearly 300 tech employers in the United States announced this month that they will allow their staff to take off a full day's work on November 8, as a paid company holiday, to vote in the U.S. election.

Some of the tech firms who have agreed to make this accommodation include Spotify, About.com, the Wikimedia Foundation and the political data firm, ShareProgress.

Why are they doing this?

The founder of ShareProgress, Jim Pugh, told the Washington Post that the participating companies hope the new policy raises voter turnout in the United States. "The more we can have this be a norm within the corporate space, the more it's going to push good civic corporate behaviour," Pugh told the Post.

It may be hard for some of the nation's more politically informed people to accept, but there are a lot of good citizens out there.

LINED UP OUT THE DOOR Voters wait at a polling station in Toronto on Election Day 2015. Is it fair to ask people to do this on a work day? THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

I would take this idea one step further and argue that the more we implement this kind of policy everywhere — not merely in the United States or in the corporate world but here in Canada — voter turnout will increase dramatically.

It's true that the 2015 Canadian federal election saw the highest voter turnout in more than 20 years, but why shouldn't we aim even higher next time around? In fact, to hell with employers, why not turn the federal election into a national civic holiday?

Critics of this idea often argue that a national voting holiday wouldn't achieve much because apathy is the main reason people avoid the polls — not a lack of time. And they do have a point.

According to Statistics Canada data from 2011, the No. 1 reason Canadians didn't vote in the federal election that year was because they were "not interested" in doing so.

But guess what was listed as the second most common reason for avoiding the polls?

No time.

According to the same study, 22 per cent of Canadians who said they didn't vote in the 2011 election abstained because they were "too busy." That strikes me as a big number and a big problem.

But it's not a big surprise.

It may be hard for some of the nation's more politically informed and invested people to accept, but there are a lot of good citizens out there whose decision to avoid the polls has little to do with the strength of the candidates on the ballot and everything to do with strictly practical forces such as the weather and traffic.

If you are given a narrow window in which to cast your ballot during your work day, and you have a handful of tasks to complete before you pick your kids up from school in the afternoon, voting becomes a luxury. I am not making this up: I know several people whose decision to vote is based on nothing more than how busy they are the very day of the election. But they wouldn't dare admit this out loud, for fear they'd be labelled stupid, apathetic and irresponsible.

But they aren't stupid, apathetic and irresponsible. They're just busy. And being busy is not a crime.

Sure, the self-righteous argument that they should know better because they live in the glorious and free utopia of Canada and "how dare they take their voting rights for granted" may hold some truth. But does this disapproving, shaming position do anything at all to increase voter turnout? No. It just makes people feel bad.

So let's do something that makes people feel good. Let's turn Election Day into a national civic holiday.

Just think about it: If you get the day off to vote, you can make an occasion out of it. You can go for lunch. You can see a movie. You can pick up your dry cleaning. And most importantly, you can take an extra few minutes or even an hour to think long and hard about who it is you'd like to vote for.

After all, what's the use of observing Canada Day, a national holiday marking the moment our democracy came into being, if we don't also grant our citizens ample time to participate in its continued existence?

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star.

Proposed new tax would make landlords pay for voluntary vacancy

CITY HOLLER
Trish Kelly

When a Vancouver renter tells me they are thinking of moving, I react as if a friend has confided that they have been diagnosed with a degenerative illness.

I smile with compassion, I touch their arm in a maternal way, and encourage them to hold on to hope because what seems incurable today could be solved tomorrow.

The City of Vancouver is working on a new antidote to our rental-market woes, the Empty Homes Tax. Empowered by a provincial by-law change that went into effect in July, the city now has the authority to impose a tax on unoccupied homes, and perhaps design it with enough teeth to force some of the estimated 10,800 empty properties on to our rental market.

Throughout October, the city will be hosting open houses to determine aspects like what empty homes should be exempt and how much the tax should be. There's also an online survey.

If you're a renter, landlord, or someone who's sitting on an empty property for what you think is a really good reason, speak up now, because all this is going to go by quickly. Consultation will happen in October, and the city is aiming to mail the first heads up to homeowners in December. Though owners wouldn't be billed until early 2018, the clock will start running in January 2017.

Renters can keep their fingers crossed that absent owners will balk and choose to list their property for rent to avoid paying it. For that to happen, the tax rate will have to be significant, given that anyone sitting on an empty property is already absorbing a loss of tens of thousands of dollars in missed rental revenue. We can expect that people of such means and entitlement will also be the type who can lawyer up and interfere with the city's efforts through elaborate litigious appeals.

Revenue raised by the tax would be put to work creating affordable housing, and the potential revenue numbers are enough to make a housing activist giddy. The city is considering a tax rate as low as .5 per cent, but even that would cost the owner of a $600,000 condo another $3,000 per year. If even one quarter of empty homes were taxed at that rate, the city would have over $8 million a year to put into housing.

Some homeowners for whom a tax that limits what they can do with their own private property offends their sense of frontier justice, will undoubtedly be filling out the city's survey and hitting up these open house events, so please don't miss your chance to speak up for yourself, and all of us who need a place to live in Vancouver.

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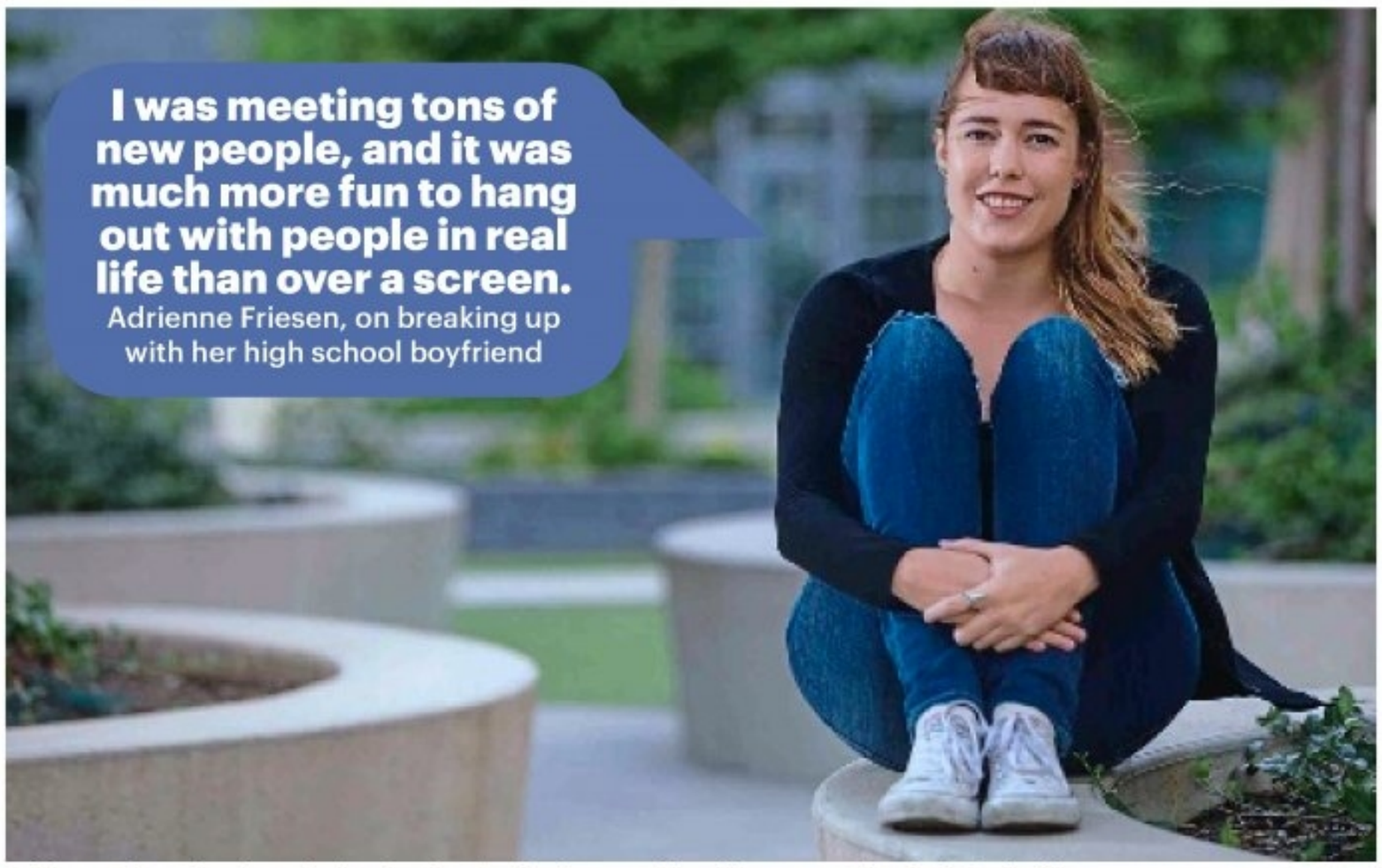
RELATIONSHIPS

Breaking up over holidays can be tough for students

Sofi Papamarko
Torstar News Service


I was meeting tons of new people, and it was much more fun to hang out with people in real life than over a screen.
Adrienne Friesen, on breaking up with her high school boyfriend

Adrienne Friesen has done the "turkey drop," going home and breaking up over Thanksgiving holiday. CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The first week of September, I overheard a conversation between some international students on U of T campus. They had all just met that day and were sharing basic information about themselves, sweetly and tentatively building new friendships.

"My boyfriend still lives in Korea," offered one of the fresh-faced freshmen. "We know it will be difficult, but we're going to stay together."

Oh, honey.

Maintaining a long-distance relationship over four years isn't impossible. But it is highly implausible, especially when you're a teenager and are still figuring out who you are.

In my university experience, the students who arrived romantically attached to someone from their hometown were single again after Thanksgiving long weekend.

Known widely as "the Turkey Drop" or "Dumpsgiving," it's the phenomenon of first-year university and college students, immersed in their new academic and social lives, ending things with their high school sweethearts the very next time they see them — usually Thanksgiving weekend. When the end of a relationship is dealt with in unhealthy ways, it can impede student success for a semester — or even threaten the entire school year.

> **Pursuing new social activities (reminds students) that they are more than just someone's ex-partner and they may even find a new romantic opportunity in the process.** Dr. Jesmen Mendoza

Digital media specialist Adrienne Friesen, 25, is an admitted turkey dumper. When she moved to Toronto for school, she and her high school boyfriend tried to make it work. Unfortunately, the relationship lasted about as long as a slice of pumpkin pie set in front of Uncle Bill.

"I immediately fell in love with Toronto and realized that I would be staying here long-term, even beyond university," says Friesen.

And by the time U.S. Thanksgiving rolled around, Friesen says it was no longer appealing to schedule Skype calls or phone calls with her boyfriend since her time was filled with her commerce program and being on the varsity swim team.

"I was meeting tons of new people and it was much more fun to hang out with people in real life than over a screen," Friesen says.

While Friesen says her breakup was a healthy and necessary one, that's not always the case, and many students may find themselves having difficulties healing and moving on.

Dr. Jesmen Mendoza, a psychologist at Ryerson University's Centre for Student Development and Counselling, encourages students dealing with a painful breakup over Thanksgiving or at any other time of the year to get in touch with their school's counselling services and take up fulfilling activities.

"Pursuing new social activities (reminds students) that they are more than just someone's ex-partner and they may even find a new romantic opportunity in the process," Dr. Mendoza says. "Those reluctant to pursue counselling may think that they may be judged or shamed, but professional counsellors are invested in helping students becoming hopeful about their future and hopeful about having a successful intimate relationship."

Experts say that consistent exercise, a balanced diet and getting enough sleep can also help ease the physical and emotional symptoms of a breakup. But keeping busy is definitely key.

"Focus on what makes you you, which for me included refocusing on my studies, taking up a new class, getting a part-time job and getting back in touch with friends," says Friesen.

"It's important to get out and about. Even if it's just going to a café to work or study instead of staying home, it helps to be around people. Having a good friend-support system is also helpful."

And don't forget the silver lining to dumping or being dumped on Thanksgiving weekend: there has never been a more appropriate time to eat your feelings.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

McKinnon's Clinton is the one to watch

THE SHOW: Saturday Night Live, Oct. 1, 2016
THE MOMENT: The Clinton-Trump debate

Kate McKinnon as Hillary Clinton on Saturday Night Live. WILL HEATH/NBC VIA AP

Hillary Clinton (Kate McKinnon) squares off against Donald Trump (Alec Baldwin) on the debate stage.

"He spent his life cheating labourers," Clinton says. "Labourers like my own human father, who made drapes or sold drapes, something with drapes, and he was relatable and I am also relatable."

Later, in her closing statement, she says, "Listen, America, I get it: you hate me. You hate my voice and you hate my face. Well, here's a tip: if you never want to see my face again, elect me president, and I will lock myself in the Oval Office and not come out for four years. But if you don't elect me, I will continue to run for president until the day I die."

Rejoicing abounded when SNL announced that Baldwin will play Trump until the election and rightly so: the actor perfectly captures the candidate's jutting lips, bullying cadences and the way he plays to his countrymen's worst instincts. (When I interviewed him this past spring, he called Trump "America's bile duct.")

As great as Baldwin is, though, I don't need a Trump parody. Trump takes care of that himself. McKinnon's performance is more relevant.

By pointing out both Clinton's awkwardness ("my human father"), and the inherent sexism she faces from men and women ("you hate my face"), McKinnon gives us valuable insight into why America can't warm to Clinton. Her impression goes beyond mockery to get to uncomfortable truths.

In this election (and its SNL funhouse mirror), he's getting all the ink. But the story is her.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Kim Kardashian shaken but unharmed in robbery

INVESTIGATION

Five assailants stole $10M in jewellery at gunpoint

Armed robbers forced their way into a private Paris residence where Kim Kardashian West was staying, and stole more than $10 million worth of jewelry, police officials said. AP PHOTO/LIONEL CIRONNEAU, FILE

Armed robbers forced their way into a private Paris residence where Kim Kardashian West was staying, tied her up and locked her in a bathroom before making off with more than $10 million worth of jewelry, police officials said Monday.

A spokeswoman for Kardashian West said the reality TV star, who was in Paris attending fashion week shows, was badly shaken but physically unharmed.

She left Paris Monday morning a few hours after the incident, and flew to Teteboro Airport in New Jersey. From there she travelled in a motorcade to her apartment building in downtown Manhattan, where there was a heavy security presence.

Friends of Kardashian West consoled the reality TV star in New York City following her ordeal.

LaLa Anthony, wife of basketball player Carmelo Anthony arrived Monday afternoon, as did family friends Jonathan Cheban and Simon Huck, who are often featured on Keeping Up With the Kardashians.

Kris Jenner indicated her daughter was doing OK, giving a "thumbs up" signal when a reporter asked how Kardashian West was faring. Video cameras lined barricades outside the building, capturing security guards milling about.

Paris police are hunting for five suspected assailants after the incident, which has raised new concerns about security in the French capital after a string of deadly extremist attacks.

The thieves entered the 19th-century luxury residence in Paris' chic eighth district after the concierge let them in around 2:30 a.m. local time, according to two police officials. Handcuffed and at gunpoint, the concierge led them to the starlet's flat.

The robbers tied up Kardashian West and locked her in the bathroom before escaping on bikes, the officials said. They were not authorized to be publicly named speaking about ongoing investigations.

The officials said the five stole a jewelry box containing valuables worth 6 million euros ($6.7 million) as well as a ring worth 4 million euros ($4.5 million). In a message to The Associated Press, the Paris prosecutor's office said that only two of the five suspects forced their way into the apartment.

It's unclear whether the couple's two children, 3-year-old daughter North and 10-month-old son Saint, were with Kardashian West when the robbery happened, or if they were with her at all on her trip to France.

Kardashian's husband, Kanye West, abruptly ended his performance at the Meadows Music and Arts Festival in New York on Sunday night.

"I'm sorry, family emergency, I have to stop the show," West told the audience.

Kardashian West was ambushed last week by a serial celebrity assaulter who attempted to grab her as she was entering a restaurant. She was also attacked outside of a Paris fashion week show in 2014. She wasn't hurt in either incident.

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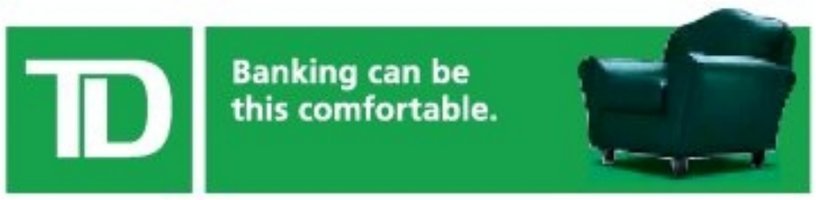

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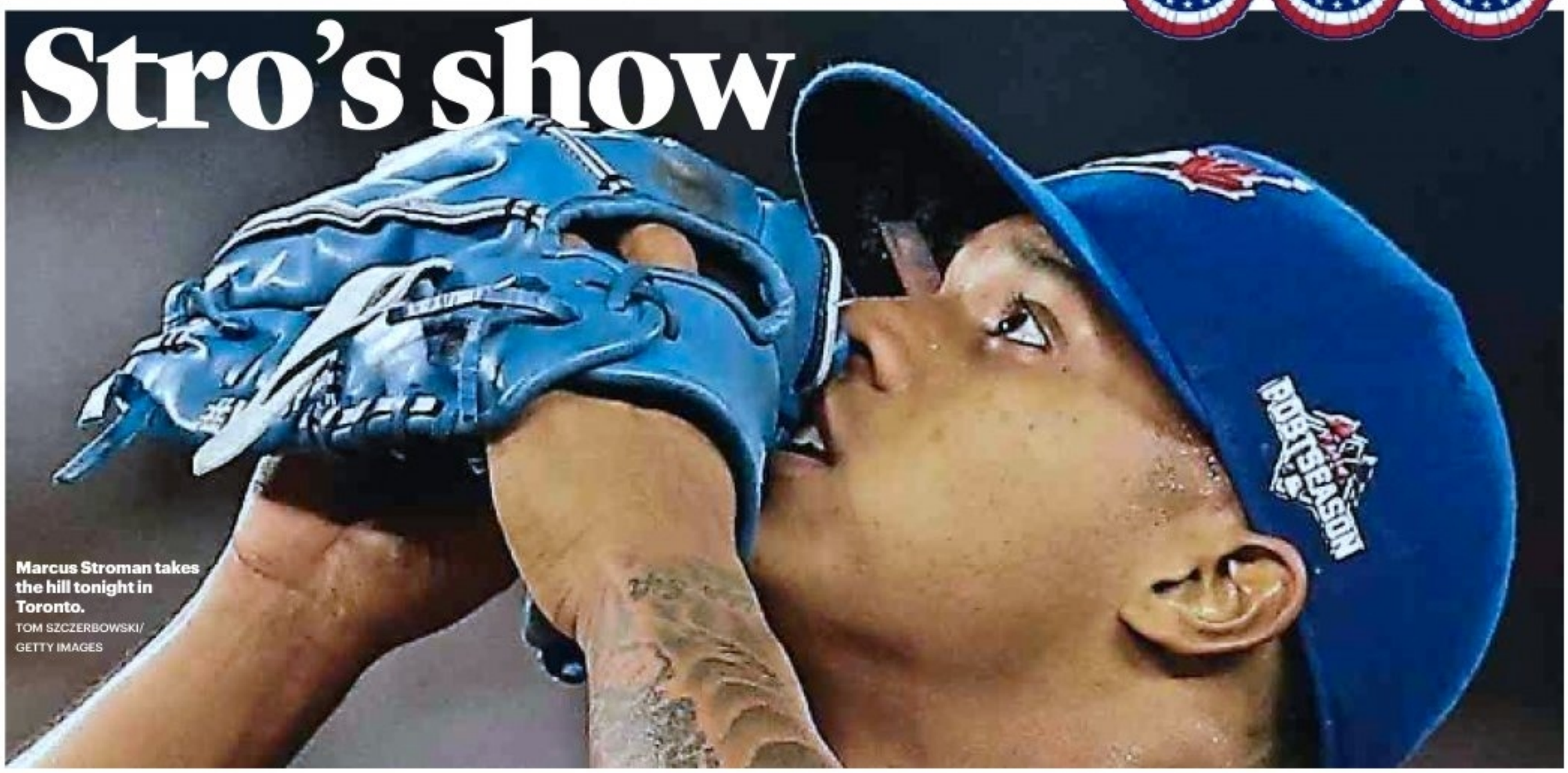
metro SPORTS

The wild card San Francisco Giants have a chance to add to their even-numbered year success, having won the World Series in 2010, '12 and '14

Stro's show



Marcus Stroman takes the hill tonight in Toronto.
TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/ GETTY IMAGES

AL WILD-CARD GAME

Wobbly Jays have chance to start anew in post-season

Bruce Arthur

One more game. That's all you can ask for, in the good times. In the bad times, one more game is just a chance to buy the popcorn and see your favourite players and feel the rhythm of the games, if you're a fan; to burnish or otherwise add to statistics while getting paid, if you are a player; to evaluate, if you are the general manager; to sell advertising and tickets and merchandise, if you are the owner.

In the good times, it's all that too, sure, but it's something else.

The Toronto Blue Jays have not marched into the playoffs as a conquering army this time. They have scraped in, sparks flying from the bullpen, the hitters ragged and stumbling.

But they got in, and they get to play one more, at home, against the Baltimore Orioles. The first thing you notice is the starting pitchers. Marcus Stroman for the Jays, despite the way the Orioles batted him around this year for a 7.04 ERA in four starts, and despite the fact that Baltimore can't hit left-handers like, say, Francisco Liriano. Chris Tillman for the O's, despite the recent white-hot streak from Ubaldo Jimenez.

The Jays had to burn their best two starters to get here so it's Stroman, who has been searching for himself this year, or at least for the pitcher he believes he is. Maybe he finds it again Tuesday.

The leash better be short, though, because right now there is only Tuesday. You can imagine a path if you like — a rematch against Texas, having to try to solve Cole Hamels again, seeing the kaleidoscope of Yu Darvish, finding a flammable Rangers bullpen that is just begging to be bat-flipped again. An ensuing best-of-seven against either Cleveland or Boston, whichever, and neither is a superteam. You can imagine a path to the World Series for the Jays, if you really try.

It's not easy, though, because they will have to be something other than what they have become to get there. The bats have been so dispiriting, and the relievers so vulnerable, and the little mistakes so common, and this season so reliant on starting pitching. In their 13 wins in the last month and two days of the season, the Jays allowed three, two, two, two, zero, two, two, zero, zero, three, one, three and one runs. If starting pitching was a reliable way to win the World Series, then over the years Detroit, or Washington, or the Dodgers, or the Mets would have been happier than they were.

3.63

Orioles starter Chris Tillman had a 3.63 ERA in 22 innings over four starts against the Jays in 2016.

And while this Jays team appears to be missing on big swings, a shadow of last year's juggernaut, they're not dead.

And it might take just one game to start.

And that is the beginning of the path that you can imagine. If they can outpitch the Orioles and catch some mistake pitches before Baltimore trots out its murderous bullpen, then they can win. And then you face Texas and as we saw last season, anything is possible.

So, one game. It could be the end of Jose Bautista, Edwin Encarnacion and others in Toronto. It could be the end of the sudden party that has enveloped Toronto and the country.

It's been a weird year in one way: with a better record from the start, management wasn't all-in this time; the decisions indicated a franchise undecided, even grudging, until the revenues piled so high that management had to publicly commit to trying to contend next season. Even then, team president Mark Shapiro offered provisos, escape clauses. Maybe they can't find the right players. Maybe there won't be enough money for that. This season-ending mess has given more excuses for a different plan, if nothing else.

But all that matters now is one game. It's a TV bastard tightrope act, the wild card: irrevocable, sudden, one chance to keep breathing after playing 162, no tomorrow unless there is. But it's a game. May as well play it.

Bruce Arthur is a sports columnist for the Toronto Star.

MATCHUP BREAKDOWN

Gibbons selects the 'perfect guy' to start

The Blue Jays and Baltimore Orioles are about as similar as two clubs can be entering the American League wild-card game.

Both teams had 89-73 records in the AL East Division. Both teams clinched playoff spots on the final weekend of the season. And both teams own power-heavy lineups that can feast at a homer-happy stadium like Rogers Centre.

The Blue Jays had a 10-9 edge in the season series but Baltimore took two of three games last week in Toronto.

So who will blink first on Tuesday night?

The Toronto pitching staff led the American League in earned-run average while the Orioles led the majors in home runs.

Chris Tillman gets the start for Baltimore while fellow right-hander Marcus Stroman will be on the hill for Toronto.

"Some guys rise to the occasion. I've seen Stro do that many, many times," Jays manager John Gibbons said Monday. "I think he's the perfect guy."

TONIGHT

AL wild-card game: Baltimore at Toronto, Tuesday, 5:08 p.m. PT

The winner of the one-game showdown will advance to the American League Division Series. The Texas Rangers will host Game 1 of that series on Thursday afternoon.

The Orioles and the Blue Jays have been in Game 7 mode for several days and it seems rather fitting that they'll open the post-season with a win-or-go-home elimination game.

"There's got to be something to be said for experiencing those kind of games," Gibbons said. "You play enough of them, you get used to them."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Britton waiting in the wings for O's

What could be scarier for the Blue Jays than one inning of Baltimore super closer Zach Britton in the American League wild-card game?

How about two innings.

"Yes, (Orioles manager Buck Showalter) told us to be ready for two innings," Britton said as the Orioles worked out in advance of the wild-card game Tuesday night at the Rogers Centre.

"Any time I get asked, that's fine. It's not something I haven't done before. Roles are roles, until they're not. You have to be ready for anything in a game like this. So just be ready when your number is called."

The Orioles rarely call Britton's number for two innings, although the left-hander did record five outs in Sunday's wild-card clinching win over the Yankees. He has only been stretched out past one inning on two other occasions this season, including July 31 against Toronto.

With an all-or-nothing game Tuesday, it wouldn't be a surprise to see Showalter call for Britton earlier than usual, depending on the way the game plays out. When you have the best reliever in baseball, and arguably the best left-hander in the game, it's a no-brainer.

Britton is the one clear advantage Baltimore has over the Jays. He has simply been unbeatable all season, converting all 47 save opportunities he's inherited. He's given up only four earned runs in 67 innings, with 74 strikeouts, 18 walks and just 38 hits allowed.

His ERA dipped below 1.00 on June 9 and has not risen above 0.70 since, winding up at 0.54. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Zach Britton GETTY IMAGES

NBA RAPTORS EDGED BY NUGGETS PRE-SEASON IN CALGARY The Denver Nuggets' Danilo Gallinari shoots over Bruno Caboclo of the Toronto Raptors during pre-season action in Calgary on Monday night. The Nuggets won 108-106. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

McGwire back on the Hall of Fame ballot

Mark McGwire is getting another swing at the Hall of Fame.

The former slugger who admitted using steroids joins Bud Selig, George Steinbrenner and seven others on the Today's Game Era ballot to be considered for election to Cooperstown in December. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White Sox waste little time in hiring new manager

Rick Renteria is getting a second chance to manage in Chicago, this time on the South Side.

The White Sox promoted Renteria from bench coach on Monday, hoping he can help turn around a struggling franchise. Outgoing manager Robin Ventura announced Sunday that he would not return. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Questions hover over Dodgers, Nats

By the time Game 1 of the National League Division Series rolls around, Daniel Murphy will have gone three weeks without a start for the Washington Nationals.

When the NL East champs host the NL West champion Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday to get things started, one big question will be which team deals better with all the time off since the end of the regular season.

Another will be how the Nationals fare without starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg and slugging catcher Wilson Ramos, both sidelined by injuries (Strasburg for the series, Ramos for the season).

And yet another will be how key players such as 2015 postseason star (while with the Mets) Murphy, 2015 NL MVP Bryce Harper and franchise stalwart Ryan Zimmerman deal with nagging ailments.

"Almost everybody has something," Washington manager Dusty Baker said. "So our training staff and everybody will be busy working on guys." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wounded Panthers face nervous wait on Newton

NFL

Doctor verdict due after star QB taken off with concussion

The Carolina Panthers are 1-3, their MVP quarterback has a concussion and their young secondary just allowed Matt Ryan to throw for 503 yards and four touchdowns.

Yep, the NFC's best team last season is reeling. The Panthers are 1-3 for the fourth time in six seasons under coach Ron Rivera, but the two-time NFL Coach of the Year said this one feels different.

"I think we should be better than we are," Rivera said Monday.

Carolina has won three straight NFC South titles, but is two games behind the Atlanta Falcons (3-1) one quarter of the way through the season. And now there's a chance they could be without Cam Newton for a while.

Newton left Sunday's 48-33 loss to the Falcons in the fourth quarter with a concussion and did not return. Rivera said Newton's status for next Monday night's home game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers is uncertain. The Panthers visit the New Orleans Saints in another division matchup in Week 6 before a bye week.

Derek Anderson, who threw two TD passes and two interceptions against the Falcons, would start if Newton isn't cleared from the concussion protocol. Anderson was 2-0 as a starter for Carolina in 2014 with both wins coming against Tampa Bay.

Rivera last spoke to Newton after the game at the Georgia Dome and said the quarterback told him, "I'm fine."

But the coach said he hadn't spoken to Newton on Monday and that "I have no idea what has come out of the meeting with the doctors."

The Panthers return to practice Wednesday.

Newton inexplicably slowed down nearing the goal line on a 2-point conversion run on Sunday and took a legal hit from linebacker Deion Jones.

Rivera, a former NFL linebacker with the Chicago Bears, seemed to have no problem with the hit, saying "If I was playing I'd have taken the shot." Even before the injury, Newton wasn't playing particularly smart.

He was flagged for a taunting penalty in the first quarter and finished 14 of 25 for 165 yards and a touchdown with a few overthrows. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cam Newton inexplicably slowed down nearing the goal line on a two-point conversion run on Sunday and took a legal hit from Falcons linebacker Deion Jones. SCOTT CUNNINGHAM/GETTY IMAGES

> **"I have no idea what has come out of the meetings with the doctors."**
> Panthers coach Ron Rivera

McDonald switches to Bellator

MMA

Canuck fighter and new father makes move to UFC competitor

Canadian welterweight Rory MacDonald is celebrating a new baby, new employer and a new lease on life. The 27-year-old fighter is the latest new face of the Bellator promotion, leaving the UFC after a 13-fight career that brought him to the cusp of the 170-pound championship.

"I feel a lot of motivation," MacDonald said of Bellator. "They treat me well. They have a lot of belief in me. It's exciting new territory. New guys to fight." And he believes he is finally taking charge of his career. "I'm definitely getting in the driver's seat right now, that's for sure."

After losing by fifth-round TKO to then-champion (Ruthless) Robbie Lawler in a brutal bout at UFC 189 in July 2015, MacDonald began to question whether he was getting the pay he deserved. His nose broken, the challenger had given his all in the fight. His bloody staredown with Lawler at the end of Round 4 with both fighters refusing to give ground remains an iconic MMA moment.

Bellator's new recruit Rory MacDonald has an 18-4 record and is best known for his epic brawl with Robbie Lawler at UFC 189. THE CANADIAN PRESS/FRED CHARTRAND

MacDonald made a basic purse of $59,0000 US for that fight and both men picked up an additional $50,000 fight-of-the-night bonus. Lawler's basic pay was $300,000 including a win bonus.

MacDonald was then matched with red-hot contender Stephen (Wonderboy) Thompson in a battle of top welterweight contenders that was also the last fight on the Canadian's UFC contract. In the leadup to the June 2016 showdown in Ottawa, MacDonald announced he would test free agency after the bout.

MacDonald, a B.C., native who now calls Montreal home, predicted Thompson would be a technical fight with bloodshed. He was right. Thompson, a former world champion kickboxer with an array of offensive weapons, was hard to hit and harder to stop hitting. MacDonald (18-4) had his nose broken again in losing a unanimous decision.

Despite the loss, MacDonald said he knew his worth and was going to ensure he got it with his next deal.

"I bring a lot to the table," he said when asked about that worth. "I have the Canadian audience behind me. That's a market that anybody in mixed martial arts promotion wants to tap into it because everybody knows it's a big market ... I've competed at the highest level in the sport for a long time. I'm a young guy. I have a lot of years ahead of me.

"Along with a few other things, I need to be financially compensated for what I bring to the table, because I'll be making these people a lot of money — bringing them good exciting fights and making them fantastic," he added.

> **They (Bellator) treat me well. They have a lot of belief in me. It's exciting new territory. New guys to fight.**
> Rory MacDonald

MacDonald listened to all offers including that of the UFC before choosing Bellator in late August. While Bellator is second to the UFC in the MMA world, it is not without resources under owner Viacom, whose entertainment empire ranges from Paramount Pictures to MTV.

MacDonald, whose daughter Maia just turned three months, says he was not asking for "something astronomical that doesn't work for everyone."

"We see (the) UFC making so much money right now. It's an incredible amount of money," he said. "I give them all the praise for that. I think it's amazing what they've done for the business and the sport. But let's be realistic here, it's a two-way street. The fighters have done a lot for the sport as well. We're at a pivotal point in the sport where we need to stick up for ourselves and get our slice of the pie too."

MacDonald took pains to say he has no issue with the UFC and appreciates what they did for this career.

"I'm just trying to do what's best for me and my family and my career." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Romo's return made tricky by Dak's form

Dak Prescott never gets tricked by the question, no matter how someone asks what happens when Tony Romo returns from his latest back injury.

The answer will only get more complicated for the Cowboys if the rookie keeps playing this well in his record-setting debut. With a victory at home against Cincinnati on Sunday, Dallas (3-1) will be guaranteed a winning record for the widely projected Romo return date of Oct. 30. Then again, maybe it's not complicated if you listen to tight end Jason Witten, Romo's favourite target, close friend and teammate for all of their 14 seasons since they came into the NFL together with the Cowboys in 2003.

Witten said Monday: "I think there's few people on this planet that can do the things at that position what he's done in his career. He'll continue to come back and play at a high level." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

World Cup could expand

World Cup expansion plans got even bigger Monday, and the 2026 tournament could have 48 teams playing instead of 32.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino outlined the idea that would see 16 teams go home after playing just one game in a new opening playoff round. The 16 playoff winners would join 16 seeded teams to begin a 32-team group stage that follows the current World Cup format. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kubiak says Siemian is Denver's QB if he's healthy

Gary Kubiak always had an answer last season when he gathered his players to let them know whether Peyton Manning or Brock Osweiler would start that week. This time, it comes with a caveat.

Kubiak said "our plan is for Trevor (Siemian) being there Sunday, but we have to take it day by day." So, rookie Paxton Lynch could get his first start for the Broncos, over the ailing Siemian against Atlanta. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCCER

Bradley becomes first U.S. boss in EPL

Bob Bradley persevered in Egypt through a violent uprising, excelled in Norway with limited resources and dropped into France's second tier league to further prove his coaching credentials.

Throughout the arduous journey after leading the United States at the 2010 World Cup, Bradley remained fixed on the ultimate goal — a job in a top European league.

Now, after years of setbacks and rejections, the 58-year-old Bradley has arrived in the richest soccer league of all after landing a job with Swansea City on Monday.

The Premier League has had 21 different nationalities managing its teams, but Bradley is the first American after replacing the fired Francesco Guidolin in south Wales. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Spicy Beef Tacos with Sweet Potato

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Ready in 40 minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 1 large sweet potato, diced into bite-size pieces
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp (7.5 ml) salt, divided
- 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced and rinsed in very warm water
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) sugar
- pinch of salt
- 1/3 cup rice vinegar
- 2 lb. (900 g) organic lean ground beef
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) chili powder
- 2 tsp (10 ml) ground cumin
- 1 tsp (5 ml) cinnamon
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried oregano
- 1 tsp (5 ml) pepper
- 2 tsp (10 ml) salt
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) shaved Monterey jack cheese
- Handful chopped fresh cilantro
- 8 corn tortillas
- jar of prepared salsa

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400. Toss sweet potato with olive oil and 1/2 tsp (2ml) salt. Spread on a lined baking sheet and bake 5 to 7 minutes. Toss and bake another 5 minutes, or until fork tender. Remove from oven and place in a bowl; set aside.

2. In a small bowl, dissolve sugar and salt in vinegar, add the onions; set aside.

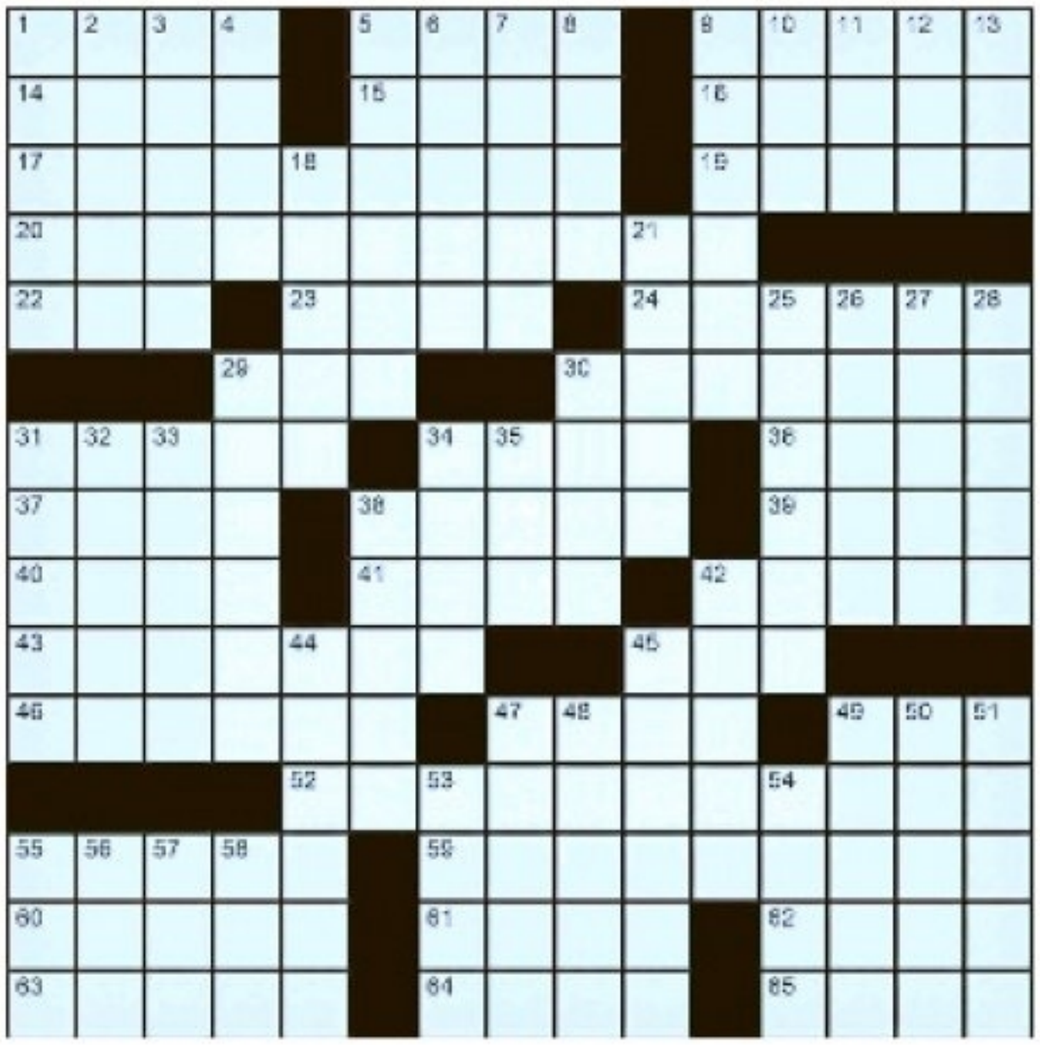
3. In large skillet, cook beef over medium heat, breaking up with spoon, until browned, 10 minutes.

4. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, blend spices and garlic. Stir into meat; cook another 2 minutes. Remove from heat and transfer half to a serving dish. Put other half in an airtight container and store in the refrigerator to use for another dinner. Place beef, sweet potato, slices of red onion, cheese, fresh cilantro, salsa and tortillas out on the table for taco assembly.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Reveal the secret
5. Rebuff
9. Jazz legend Ms. Vaughan
14. Moon, in Montreal
15. Towering
16. Doubly
17. Starter in Italian cuisine
19. Red _ (Tree in British Columbia)
20. American _ _ (Ice Age animal which lived in the Yukon)
22. "Forrest Gump" (1994) star ...his initials-sharers
23. Ms. Kedrova of "Torn Curtain" (1966)
24. Beaver-like rodent called a 'river rat'
29. Johnny Carson bandleader Mr. Severinsen
30. Lifestyles guru Martha
31. Couch potato's prize possession: 2 wds.
34. Prefix to 'copter'
36. Face shape
37. Elevation on land
38. Sort of shrub
39. Greek alphabet's second letter
40. Old Testament twin
41. Hopped off the horse
42. Jazz†legend Mr. Davis
43. "Opportunity" is a 1967 hit by what Canadian band?
45. Carpet store purchase
46. Self-_
47. Bowsprit, for one
49. British singer Mr. Smith
52. The regular folk: 3 wds.
55. 1942 Disney classic
59. Sold, Sotheby's-style
60. Scent
61. Entreaty
62. Beast
63. Glower
64. Antiquities
65. Info

DOWN
1. Booming noise
2. Noon hour meal
3. 'Nay' sides in debates
4. "Could It _ _ Falling in Love" by The Spinners
5. Radio interference
6. Of the nose
7. Ne plus _ (Perfection)
8. Allied group
9. Sculptor's creation
10. Pointy tool
11. Empty
12. Champion
13. "And I Love _" (Lennon-McCartney)
18. Test episode in television
21. Shenanigan
25. _-_ Matthews, Emilio Estevez's character in "The Outsiders" (1983)
26. Disentangle
27. All worked up
28. Maps book
29. Hoodwink
30. Window blinds segment
31. Subject matter
32. Travel endorsements
33. Angle
34. Hoop's fun friend
35. Record label
38. Ms. Hayek the actress
42. Tuesday, in Tadoussac
44. Antenna
45. The aquatic Rays
47. Brain's 'bonnet'
48. Walked anxiously
49. _-_-long (Campfire fun)
50. Aware
51. Mythical wife scorned by Jason
53. Scruff
54. Recipes requirement
55. "Run to You" Canadian rocker ...his initials-sharers
56. Curve
57. Farm sound
58. Snazzy car

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is an excellent day to have a practical discussion with a partner or close friend. People are in a practical frame of mind and are concerned about how to do something.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will be productive at work today because it's easy to concentrate. Furthermore, you want practical results from your hard work

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Discussions about the practicalities of a social event, a vacation or making plans for parties and fun diversions will yield results today. It's a good day to teach children.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You might talk to a parent or an authority figure in your family today about doing something that needs to be done at home. Listen to the advice of others.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You have an orderly state of mind today, which makes it easy to make long-range plans for the future. You will give careful consideration to everything you do.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will be careful about your finances today and how you handle money. If shopping, you will want to buy only long-lasting, practical items.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today the Sun is in your sign dancing with stern Saturn. This favors hard work and doing anything that will help you to be better organized. Dig right in!

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Research of any kind will go well today because you won't overlook details. You are willing to accept your duty and defer today's pleasure for tomorrow's results.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
An older friend or someone in a group might have wise advice for you today. Listen to what is offered, because it could benefit you.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will impress bosses, parents and VIPs because you are conscientious, hardworking and results-oriented.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You might meet a guru-like figure today or a teacher or professor who has wise advice for you. Possibly, you will play the role of adviser for someone else.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Discussions about shared property, inheritances and financial matters will be productive. You are not in a frivolous frame of mind. In fact, it's quite the opposite — you want to wrap up practical matters.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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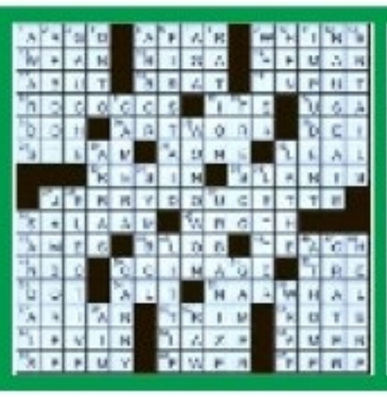

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